

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-22-085, filed 11/2/04, effective 12/15/04)

**WAC 296-23-241 Can advanced registered nurse practitioners independently perform the functions of an attending physician?**  
Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) may ~~((for the period of July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2007,))~~ independently perform the functions of an attending physician under the Industrial Insurance Act, with the exception of rating permanent impairment. These functions are referenced in the medical aid rules as those of a physician, attending physician, or attending doctor and include, but are not limited to:

- Completing and signing the report of accident or physician's initial report, where applicable;
- Certifying time-loss compensation;
- Completing and submitting all required or requested reports;
- Referring workers for consultations;
- Performing consultations;
- Facilitating early return to work offered by and performed for the employer(s) of record;
- Doing all that is possible to expedite the vocational process, including making an estimate of the worker's physical or mental capacities that affect the worker's employability.

ARNPs can state whether a worker has permanent impairment, such as on the department's physician's final report (PFR). ARNPs cannot rate permanent impairment or perform independent medical examinations (IMEs).

~~((WAC 296-23-241 expires on June 30, 2007.))~~